(b) whether it is also a fact that once again resource crisis, that has derailed many projects in the past, may prove a stumbling block; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ward off such on eventuality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, this will be achieved through adoption of appropriate production and protection technologies relevant to various cropping systems.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Functioning of farm Universities in the Country

123. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm universities in the country and what are the details of annual State expenditure on them besides the funds from the ICAR for financing various research projects ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed serious lapses in the functioning of several universities and the IARI (New Delhi), in respect of ineffective monitoring of programmes and involving a lot of wasteful expenditure; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to solve the problems indicated by the CAG ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the Sabha in due course.

Arrears of dues Payable to Sugarcane Growers in Uttar Pradesh

124. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high prices of sugarcane as advised by states had let to build up of arrears of dues and discouraged farmers from growing sugarcane;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to cope up with the situation;

(c) the amount of arrears still outstanding as on July, 1993, especially amount of arrears due against Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to help settle such dues with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that high State Advised Prices of sugarcane give rise to incidence of arrears. Mounting of arrears also affect the liquidity of the industry. Delay in payment of cane price dues may prompt the farmers to switch over to other remunerative crops.

(b) to (d) To improve the economic viability of the sugar factories and to liquidate the cane price arrears the Government has taken the following measures:

(i) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1992-93 season was raised from Rs. 27 per quintal to Rs. 31 per quintal. The SMP for 1993-94 season has been fixed at Rs. 34.50 per quintal. An advance announcement for 1994-95 season has also been made at the rate of Rs. 37.00 per quintal.

(ii) Levy to free sale ratio was changed from 45 : 55 to 40 : 60 in February, 1993.

(iii) The release mechanism has been regulated in such a manner so as to ensure adequate realisation to the sugar factories.

(iv) Special releases have been allowed to sugar factories which were having high cane price arrears.

(v) Control on price and movement of molasses has been lifted. This will help the industry in earning additional revenue.

The arrears (on All India basis) as on 31-7-1993 during 1992-93 season were 3.1% of total dues as compared to 17.2% as on 31-3-1993. The arrears of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh as on 31-7-1993 were 7.01% of total dues as compared to 25.94% as on 31-3-1993. The arrears in Uttar Pradesh have further come down and an amount of Rs. 28 crores was due as on 30-9-1993.

Production Quota for Commercial Crops

125. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to fix production quota for commercial crops to various States to prevent abnormal fall in agricultural prices; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the quota so far fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir. Government of India fixes National production target of commercial crops except tobacco, in consultation with the State Governments based on requirements. However, to safeguard the interest of farmers, Government announces minimum support prices of major commercial crops.

(b) Production targets fixed during 1993-94 for Sugarcane, Cotton, Jute and Mesta and Oilseeds are given in the statement.

Statement

(State-wise break-up of Production Targets for 1993-94

State	Sugarcane (Lakh tonnes)	Cotton (Lakh bales) 170 Kg. each	Jute & Mesta (Lakh bales (180 Kg. each)	Oil Seeds (Lakh tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	135.00	15.00	6.20	25.00
Assam	20.00	–	10.52	2.00
Bihar	85.00	—	13.60	1.80
Gujarat	105.00	20.00	—	31.50
Haryana	85.00	14.50	—	8.00
H.P.	—	—	—	0.20
J & K	—	—	—	0 50
Karnataka	205.00	9.00	—	19.00
M.P.	22.00	4.5	—	34.00
Maharashtra	350.00	19.00	—	18.00
Orissa	50.00	0.10	5.70	9.00
Punjab	80.00	24.00	—	2.70
Rajasthan	13.00	12.00	—	25.00
U.P.	1072.00	0.3	0.64	13.00
Tamil Nadu	250.00	6.5	—	14.00
West Bengal	12.00	—	53.17	5.00
Meghalaya	—	—	0.67	—
Tripura	—	—	0.90	—
Kerala	6.00	—	—	—
Others	01.00	0.10	1.60	1.80
	2500.00	125.00	93.00	210.00